

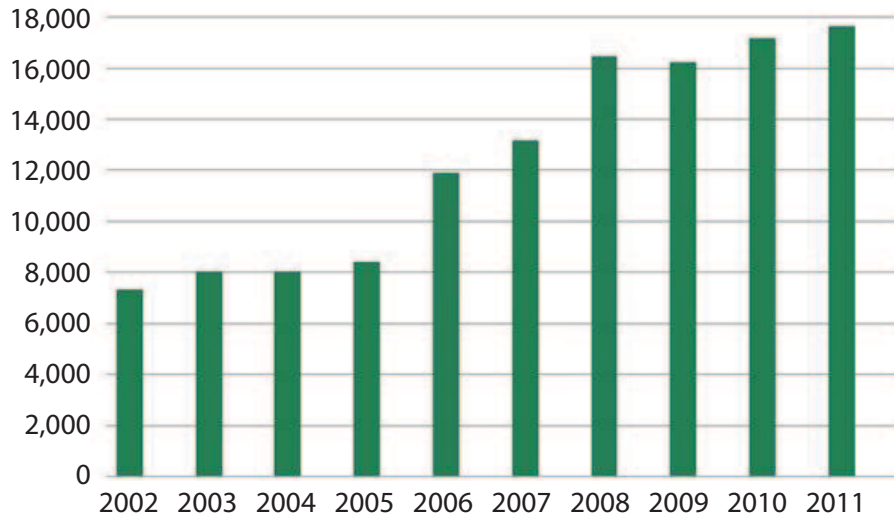
2011 List of Certified Operations



An updated list of certified organic operators is now available at <http://apps.ams.usda.gov/nop>.

As of the end of 2011, 17,673 organic farms and processing facilities in the United States were certified to the USDA organic standards. As the figure below shows, that's 478 more operators than at the end of 2010, and a 240% increase since NOP's tracking began in 2002. Worldwide, there are now 28,779 certified organic operators across 133 countries.

Number of USDA Organic Certified Operations in the United States



Source: NOP certified operations database

The slight decrease in the number of international operations from 2010 reflects the lack of operations based in Canada due to the U.S./Canada Organic Equivalency Arrangement. Since products certified by one country may be sold as organic in the other, Canadian operations no longer need to maintain certification to the USDA organic standards in order to sell organic products in the U.S. Beginning June 1, 2012, this will also be true for operations in EU member states.

Certified organic operations complete a rigorous process to become certified to sell organic

products in the United States. Organic farmers are committed to practices that foster the cycling of resources, promote ecological balance, and conserve biodiversity. They continuously work to adapt their farming and production practices to site-specific conditions. Organic operators create and maintain detailed Organic System Plans that describe production and handling practices in depth, and undergo annual inspections by USDA-accredited certifying agents to confirm the organic integrity of their practices.

As promised, the NOP has worked with certifying agents to improve the consistency of the database. The NOP's list of certified operations is currently updated once a year; however, the NOP is working to develop a system that will allow more frequent updates. Ultimately, the program hopes to provide a system with real time standardized information about organic operations to help identify and connect organic stakeholders across the supply chain, support the real-time transparency of the organic system, and streamline and standardize current information management and reporting processes for USDA certifying agents.

Certified Organic Operations by State 2011

